In 1955, the Marquette University Committee on the Fine Arts was formed to oversee the university’s growing art collection and to develop a plan for the preservation and expansion of it. The committee began sponsoring exhibitions, lectures, and other art activities. By the late 1970s,
it had become apparent that Marquette needed a permanent facility to house the collection, and the Marquette University Women’s Council sprang into action to raise the funds that would make this possible. Women’s Council President Pat Apple led the successful building campaign which was capped by the naming gift provided by Beatrice and Patrick Haggerty.

Groundbreaking for the Haggerty Museum of Art took place in April 1983. During the early construction phase, New York graffiti artist Keith Haring painted a mural on the wooden walls that lined the construction site, which became part of the museum’s permanent collection. The Haggerty Museum of Art opened on November 11, 1984, and the Marquette University art collection had a space of its own. Over the next several months, the Haggerty will be celebrating its three decades of achievements in exhibitions, programming and collection development through the museum news blasts and social media outlets.

Bea Haggerty, Marquette President John P. Raynor, S.J., and Pat Apple cutting the ceremonial ribbon on November 11, 1984

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